

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/932,825	WINTER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kevin L McHenry	1725	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to interview of 12 March 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 031204.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>031204</u> . 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kajane McManus on 12 March 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

On page 6, line 20, replace the "15" after "the combined stream" with -15'—

On page 7, line 1, after "in the raffinate" insert -Ra—

On page 8, line 5, replace "125" after "combined stream" with -25'—

On page 8, line 16, after "the purity of the extract" insert -E stream—

On page 20, line 16, replace "22" after "lean solvent stream" with -52—

2. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: items 47 and 54 need to be added to the drawings. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claim 1 is allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the instant application is deemed to be a nonobvious improvement over the invention of Gimpel et al. (U.S.P. 5,877,384). The improvement comprises a barrier means between upper and bottom tray portions of the stripper column, means for diverting a flash vapor stream from the flash drum of the stripper column back to an extractor column upstream of the stripper column, means for diverting a lean solvent stream exiting the bottom portion of the stripper column to a heat exchange unit to cool the lean solvent stream by transferring heat to a bottom stream from the top multitiered upper portion and diverting the bottom stream of the upper portion to an upper area of the bottom portion of the stripper column, and means for diverting the cooled lean solvent stream to a reboiler of a stripper column.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

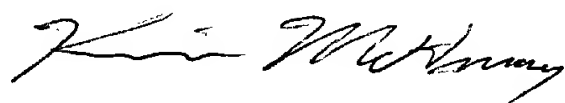
Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Gimpel et al. (U.S.P. 5,877,384), Forte (U.S.P. 5,176,821), Forte (U.S.P. 5,336,840), Yang et al. (U.S.P. 5,308,592), Gentry et al. (U.S.P. 5,399,244), Krämer et al. (U.S.P. 5,059,306), Morin et al. (U.S.P. 2,933,448), and Winter, III (U.S.P. 4,336,106) are cited of interest for illustrating the state of the art in aromatic compound extraction processes.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin L McHenry whose telephone number is (571) 272-1181. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas G Dunn can be reached on (571) 272-1171. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Kevin McHenry

Kiley Stoner AU 1725

Kiley Stoner 3/15/04